



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: March 14, 2017

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 01, 2017  
**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Justin Norton, Regional Medical Examiner's Office  
(775) 785-6114, [jnorton@washoecounty.us](mailto:jnorton@washoecounty.us)  
**THROUGH:** Laura D. Knight, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner & Coroner  
**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve a Resolution setting forth fees (estimated to generate at least an additional \$215,000 in General Fund revenue in Fiscal Year 2018), effective May 1, 2017, to be charged and collected for services provided by the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office, including but not limited to extra-jurisdictional government agencies, businesses, and citizens. (All Commission Districts)

### SUMMARY

The Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office provides several types of examinations and consultations as well as toxicology testing and other lab work for extra-jurisdictional government agencies, businesses, and citizens. Due to increasing costs and case complexity, a fee analysis was performed and it was determined that adjustments need to be made to the existing fee schedule.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Stewardship of our Community, Proactive Economic Development and Diversification, Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities, Regional and Community Leadership

### PREVIOUS ACTION

February 2014 – Board action to update Medical Examiner fee schedule.  
February 2011 – Board action to update Medical Examiner fee schedule.  
June 2008 – Board action to update Medical Examiner fee schedule.

### BACKGROUND

The Medical Examiner's Office has not requested a change to the fee schedule since February 2014. During that time, costs for personnel, benefits, services, and supplies have steadily increased.

AGENDA ITEM # 7

The new fee schedule takes into account the various types of specialty examinations which vary in regards to time and complexity by creating several base exam fees and making the specialty exams “add-ons”. Additionally, the fee schedule is simplified by including the previous “facility use fee” in the fees for examinations.

Current fees for Medical Examiner services have remained lower than many of those imposed by other comparable jurisdictions in the region and nationwide.

The proposed new fee schedule was reviewed and approved by the Washoe County Budget Division in February 2017.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The proposed fee schedule update is estimated to generate at least an additional \$215,000 in General Fund revenue in Fiscal Year 2018.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board approve the Resolution setting forth fees (estimated to generate at least an additional \$215,000 in General Fund revenue in Fiscal Year 2018), effective May 1, 2017, to be charged and collected for services provided by the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner’s Office, including but not limited to extra-jurisdictional government agencies, businesses, and citizens.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Move to approve the Resolution setting forth fees (estimated to generate at least an additional \$215,000 in General Fund revenue in Fiscal Year 2018), effective May 1, 2017, to be charged and collected for services provided by the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner’s Office, including but not limited to extra-jurisdictional government agencies, businesses, and citizens.

**RESOLUTION TO SET FEES**  
**May 1, 2017**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Washoe County, pursuant to NRS 259.025 and Washoe County Code Chapter 35.290 has the authority to create fees and charges for the Regional Medical Examiner's Office; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Medical Examiner's Office provides autopsies, medical examinations, and other related services to extra-jurisdictional governmental agencies, businesses, and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Medical Examiner's Office seeks to recover the costs associated with the provision of such services to those extra-jurisdictional governmental agencies, businesses, and citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Washoe County that it is the intention of the Board to set and approve fees that the Regional Medical Examiner's Office may charge and collect from extra-jurisdictional government agencies, businesses, and citizens for services rendered as follows:

<b>Postmortem Examinations</b>	
Autopsy	\$2,300.00
Head Post (head-only autopsy)	\$1,300.00
External Medical Examination	\$ 950.00
Consultation Case Sign-out	\$ 300.00
Jurisdiction Terminated with Assist	\$ 100.00
Decomposed Supplemental Fee	\$ 300.00
Obese (BMI > 40) Supplemental Fee	\$ 300.00
Child/Infant Supplemental Fee	\$ 500.00
Homicide Supplemental Fee	\$ 500.00
Fire/Burned Supplemental Fee	\$ 300.00
Biohazard/Infectious Supplemental Fee	\$ 300.00
Toxicology Review / Interpretation Fee	\$ 75.00
Toxicology and Neuropathology Preparation and Handling Fee	10% of cost
Lab Work, Toxicology, Subcontractors, and Special Examinations	Actual Cost
Body Storage Fee – Facility Use Fee	\$ 50.00/day
(For storage after 48 hours post-autopsy)	
Autopsy Report Fee (less than 10 years old)	\$ 25.00
One copy free to legal next-of-kin upon request	
One copy free to law enforcement and primary care physician	
Autopsy Report Fee (over 10 years old)	\$ 50.00
Autopsy Photographs and X-Rays (CD/Electronic)	\$ 30.00

Legal Consultation and Testimony by Medical Examiner (per District Attorney or other Attorney/Court):

Case preparation	\$ 450.00/hour
Records Review	
Phone Consultation/Conference	
Research for Case	
Report Preparation and Other Items Provided	
Travel Time	\$ 450.00/hour
Wait Time	\$ 450.00/hour
Travel Expenses - Actual Cost (per approval or arrangement by referring agency)	
May include: Airfare, vehicle rental, mileage allowance, lodging, etc.	
Testimony (Court, Grand Jury, Deposition)	\$ 450.00/hour

All fees for services rendered pursuant to contracts with extra-jurisdictional agencies and this Resolution shall become effective May 1, 2017 and be deposited in the County's General Fund.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WASHOE COUNTY

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Lucey, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk